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IT'S ELECTRIC

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2 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

MEXICO AIR TRANSPORT DEAL BEGINS IN BID TO BOOST COMPETITION

An air transport deal between Mexico and the United States that aims to boost competition in the passenger and freight sectors came into force on Sunday, Mexico's Communications and Transport Ministry said. The deal would open new routes for airlines to fly between the countries and allow for an unlimited number of flights. It also opens up the air freight market to more competition. While some analysts have welcomed the deal, saying it would lower airfares by boosting traffic, Mexican airline workers have complained it would put their country's airlines at a disadvantage. The deal removes the main hurdle to a closer tie-up between Delta Air Lines and Grupo Aeromexico. The carriers have asked the U.S. government to grant them immunity from antitrust law so they can coordinate better flight connection times as well as prices, a request that cannot be granted until the aviation accord comes into force.

REUTERS

13 PEOPLE WOUNDED IN SHOOTING AT CONN. HOUSE PARTY

Thirteen people were shot and wounded when at least two shooters fired into a house party from a neighboring backyard in Bridgeport, Connecticut, early on Sunday, local police said. Police in the state's most populous city were called to the house just before 1:30 a.m. and arrived to find 11 men and two women with gunshot wounds, Police Capt. Brian Fitzgerald said in an emailed statement. One of the casualties remains in critical condition after being hit in the face. Police think at least two shooters fired through the hedges from the backyard into a "large house party," according to the statement. An investigation is ongoing and there was no immediate word on arrests or the possible motive.

REUTERS

Hazardous driving conditions on the busy Ben Franklin Bridge during a heavy rain storm. GETTY IMAGES

COOLING DOWN AS HURRICANE SEASON HEATS UP

The storms that rocked much of the Northeast late Saturday afternoon and evening has put an end to the relentless heat and humidity which has dominated most of this summer. Finally a true-to-life cool front with a Canadian high pushing down from the north and west will keep temperatures and humidity at much more comfortable levels, as us human heat sponges will be able to walk a few blocks without feeling like a wet mop. This beautiful air mass should last through mid-week, before increasing humidity and temperatures begin to return to the region by Friday.

The tropics are heating up!

We are now starting to get deep into the hurricane season, as activity usually picks up in August and then peaks during mid-September, although the season continues into November.

First up is Tropical Storm Fiona, located about 900 miles northeast of the Leeward Islands, and moving quickly to the west/northwest at about 16 mph. Fiona right now does not pose a threat to the islands or the U.S. mainland, and should continue to weaken and pass west of Bermuda during the week.

Tropical trouble spot No. 2, located in the south, central Atlantic, right now remains weak and disorganized, but could slowly develop into a tropical storm taking on the name Gaston or Hermine.

Bolaris' Weather Watch

JOHN BOLARIS
@weathersavior

Tropical trouble spot No. 3 has the most potential to become a strong tropical storm or a full-fledged hurricane. Located off the Cape Verde islands of Africa (usually where the bad boys or girls develop) has a lot to work with as the environment is primed for tropical storm development. The reason why these type of storms become sometimes the biggest and baddest ones is because they have thousands of miles of ocean water to fuel upon, if they can survive the long journey across the ocean. Right now I believe this one will most likely take on the name Gaston.

Philadelphia

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Tuesday: Sunshine, low humidity, High 84

Wednesday: Sunshine, High 87

Thursday: Sunshine, warmer, High 88

Friday: Heating up, High 93

Saturday: Hot, High 92

Sunday: More heat, High 90

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Electric buses will hit two South Philly routes next year, after debuting at last month's DNC. PROVIDED

SEPTA prepares to roll out new eco-friendly buses

Bus unveiling to start in South Philly.

MADELINE PRESLAND
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

It ain't easy being green — but SEPTA is trying something new to be more eco-friendly and appeal to Philadelphia commuters after a rough summer.

New electric buses are expected to start traveling the streets of South Philly in early 2017.

"This is great for the city in reducing emissions and contributing to sustainability," says SEPTA assistant chief engineering officer Jerry Guaracino.

"This is a game changer," says Joe Minott, executive director and chief council for the Clean Air Council. "If you want to grow your population you want to be clean, efficient and affordable. Anything that pleases the rider is a good thing."

Quieter buses, less emissions and the new addition of a rear window will potentially appeal to riders and commuters alike, and riders need to be pleased. SEPTA's recent train car loss led to frustrated commuters who had been experiencing travel delays and overcrowded trains since the Regional Rail cars were recalled last month.

"Whenever someone makes a purchasing decision, you vote with your dollars," says Julie Hancher of Green Philly Blog. "If you invest in cleaner energy, you start a trend. It's a snowball effect. "

The first 25 Proterra Catalyst buses were purchased with a grant awarded to SEPTA by the Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) in 2015. The grant, which totaled at more than $2.5 million, has been used to purchase the buses in addition to the equipment needed to run them on the streets and charge them at their designated stations. The first round of buses will run on the 29 and 70 routes in South Philly.

"They're introducing it cautiously and on short routes — which I think is sound," says Minott. "There's no doubt in my mind that they will continue to build."

Guaracino reported that the buses will be able to go 50 miles between their scheduled charges while keeping the batteries at least halfway charged. Charge times average at six to eight minutes depending on weather conditions.

"There are more Philadelphians that are relying a lot less on cars — SEPTA needs to respond to that," says Hancher. "They need to invest in more viable means to make the city move forward."

SEPTA made the move to invest in the electric buses after applying for the FTA grant in late 2015 and realizing that the technology has become much more affordable. Overall, these buses will be gradually phased in to SEPTA's current fleet.

"We have to look at the performance on those routes," says Guaracino. "We're expecting four to eight vehicles per month. Once we're confident, we can start putting electric buses on other routes throughout Philadelphia."

The first SEPTA Proterra Catalyst bus in the fleet debuted during last month's Democratic National Convention.

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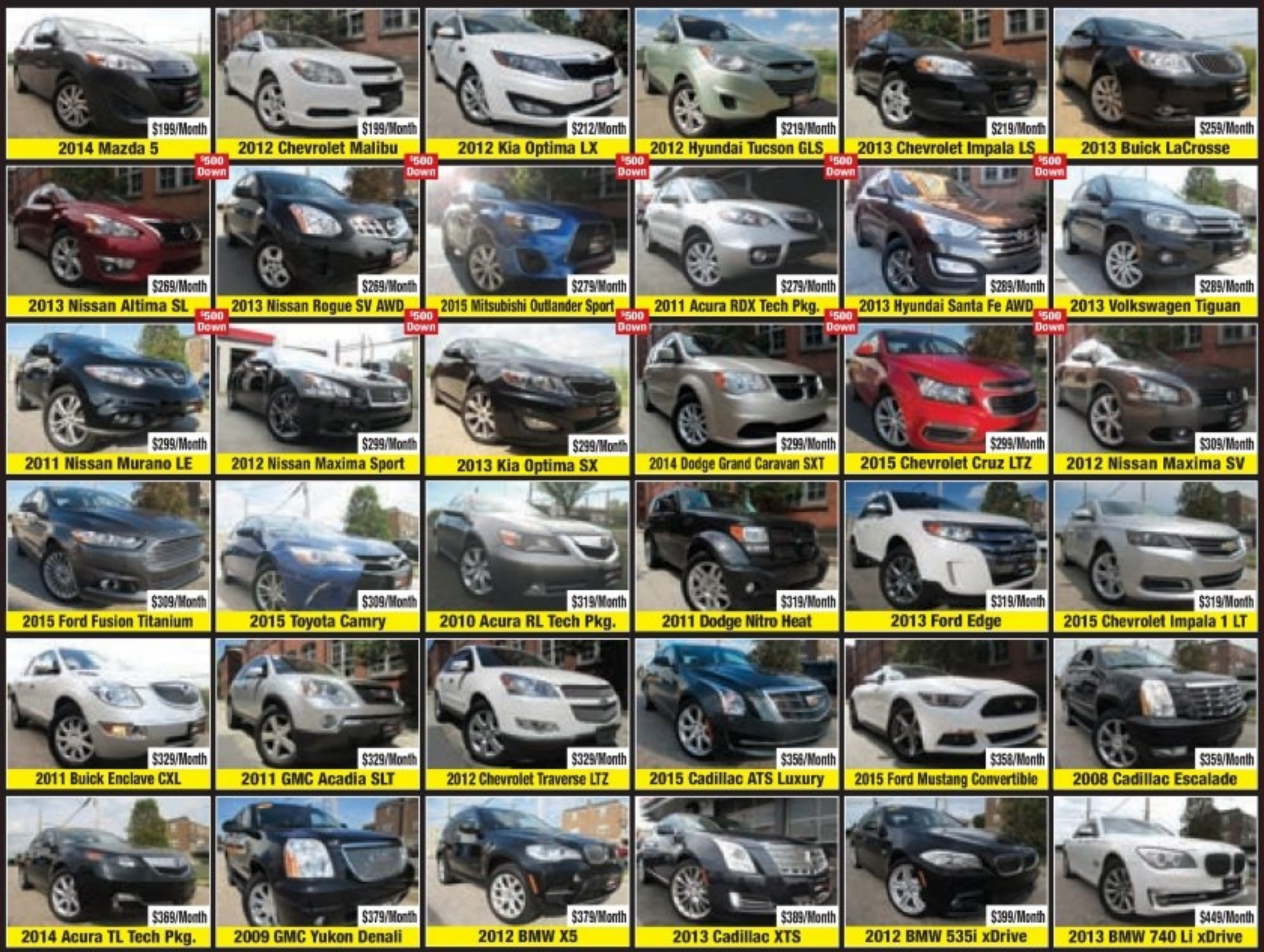

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BRIEF

Suspect in fatal Burlington County shooting IDed

Burlington City police are searching for a suspect after a shooting Saturday night that left one man dead and injured a toddler.

Samuel James, 26, has been charged with murder after allegedly shooting Byron Turner, 24, outside his home in Burlington, new Jersey, according to the Burlington County Times.

James is still at large, and has been known to stay in Burlington City and Camden. He is described as black, around 6 feet tall and about 140 pounds.

The suspect's last known address was on Route 130 in Burlington Township.

Police were called to the scene after reports of gunfire around 7 p.m. Turner, who lived on East Federal Street in Burlington, was transported to Cooper University Hospital in Camden, where he died around 10 p.m., the Burlington County Times reported.

A 5-year-old girl was in the area during the shooting, according to 6ABC. She was injured while retreating from gunfire, but was not shot.

The girl was transported to Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center for injuries that were not life threatening. ALEXIS SACHDEV

Awards show impact of Philly's sustainable business community

Philadelphia is saying "go green" — and we "don't mean the Eagles."

That was how local author and restaurateur Judy Wicks addressed the crowd of award nominees and admirers at the inaugural SustainPHL Awards. Activists, business owners and community leaders were nominees in 13 award categories such as Locavore Champion and Unsung Hero.

Organized by the team at Green Philly Blog, winners were given sustainably crafted awards designed by Recycled Artist in Residency. Wicks, who thought she was just there as a speaker and presenter, was presented with the Sustainable Pioneer Award.

For winner Morris Holland Derry III, this was his first time winning something since earning his high school diploma. He thought Ashton Kutcher would pop out to tell him he was being "Punk'd" after he got the call saying he had been nominated.

"To get an award like that — it's letting me know that my efforts are being recognized," Derry said. "I wasn't looking for it, so it makes it even more of an honor."

Derry received the Civic Sustainability Award on Thursday evening for his outreach work. He runs No More Pain Inc., an organization that he calls "the Big Brothers, Big Sisters for adults." The program is based on mentorship and the goal is to help people want to help themselves.

"Positivity, pushing forward, not giving up and setting goals," said Kelly Gibson, Derry's former mentee. "We need more people like Morris

Morris Holland Derry III received the Civic Sustainability award. TWITTER/@NOMOREPAININC2

in the world. He has given me life again."

Although No More Pain Inc.'s office is located in Somerton in the Far Northeast, Derry travels throughout the city to serve the larger community. He and his team hand out donated pizza to the homeless in Center City. He approaches addicts to provide information on detox centers or halfway houses.

Derry and Gibson met in September 2015 when Gibson reached out via Facebook to ask for help with addiction.

"Sometimes you don't think ahead because you're so caught up in the moment," Gibson said. "I was ready for the change — I just needed a coach."

Derry's plan to found his mentorship program began in 1996 while he was incarcerated. No Pain Inc. became a nonprofit organization in 2014. He continues to mentor and hopes to grow his nonprofit with assistance from grant money later this year.

"I mentor five people myself — they range from substance abuse to being on parole," Derry said. "It's all about getting people back in the community, and getting them straight and clean so they can be in our society."

Derry was nominated for his award alongside representatives of PowerCorps PHL and As I Plant This Seed. The ceremony also addressed the growth of eco-friendly and community driven business practices in Philadelphia.

"The sustainable business community is growing and thriving — now, we have our own awards," said Christine Knapp, director of the city's Office of Sustainability. MADELINE PRESLAND

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Tech industry's legal shield is feeling the heat

Section 230, which protects website operators from liabilities caused by users, is being put into question.

When San Francisco passed an ordinance this year imposing fines on home rental companies for listings by hosts not registered with the city, Airbnb sued, saying the measure runs afoul of Section 230 of the U.S. Communications Decency Act.

The case is the latest test of Section 230, a federal law that has been a trusty workhorse for the technology industry.

By protecting website operators from liability for content posted by others, the 20-year-old statute helped pave the way for the explosion of social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as online marketplaces, including Amazon and eBay.

Airbnb is frequently embroiled in lawsuits. GETTY IMAGES

But detractors say the law has been applied too broadly, and judges have pushed back in a string of recent cases. Lawyers for web operators are closely watching the Airbnb case where the utility of the legal shield is at issue.

Section 230 was intended to protect free speech online by removing liability for a newspaper, say, for libelous comments posted on their websites by readers.

The law has shielded social media and e-commerce sites from activities not even imagined when it was enacted in 1996.

Amazon.com used it to beat back part of a lawsuit over the sale of stolen photos. EBay used it to defeat a claim over the sale of an unsafe product. Craigslist prevailed in a case alleging it had "knowingly and intentionally" facilitated prostitution.

In those cases and others, websites successfully argued any offending offerings on their pages were not their responsibility because they had been posted by others.

In its lawsuit against San Francisco, Airbnb says it cannot be held responsible for ensuring hosts have complied with the city's laws.

The disputed ordinance requires Airbnb and similar services to verify that people offering short-term rentals on their sites have registered with the city. The services would face fines of $1,000 each time they process a booking from an unregistered host. REUTERS

Pushback

Some say Section 230 has been stretched too far.

Since June 2015, judges have rejected Section 230 defenses in at least 17 cases, according to research by Santa Clara Law professor Eric Goldman. While it is difficult to comprehensively track cases where the law is asserted, he said it has been a rough period for the defense.

In one case, Twitter cited the law in an attempt to persuade a San Francisco judge to dismiss a suit filed by a woman receiving unwanted tweets on her phone.

The woman's mobile provider had given her a recycled phone number, and it was still receiving Twitter feeds its former owner had signed up for. She repeatedly asked Twitter to stop the feed, texting "STOP," but it kept coming.

In her suit, she asserted Twitter was violating consumer protection laws against unsolicited calls and texts. Twitter argued that Section 230 should bar the lawsuit because its users composed the tweets, not the company. But a judge ruled against Twitter's motion this year, saying that what mattered is who sent the tweets, not who composed them.

BRIEF

Facebook can climb more than 20 percent on ad growth: Barron's

Facebook Inc. stock has the potential to climb by more than 20 percent over the next year given the growing advertising revenue among its platforms, according to a Barron's report on Sunday.

The social media giant, which traded at just under $124 a share on Friday, has seen a recent acceleration in growth in part because of its increasing mobile ad load, or, the number of ads Facebook can serve up to its users, the report said.

Facebook also has other avenues of ad load growth, including Instagram, Messenger and WhatsApp, which have yet to fill up on ads, it said.

Wall Street expects daily average users, which are 1.1 billion now, to reach 1.7 billion in four years. By then, Facebook will have learned more about how to turn its ads into transactions, leading to growth in the advertising rate it charges, Barron's said.

One concern, however, is Facebook's appeal to the young, as those under 25 years are spending a lower amount of total mobile time on Facebook compared to other age groups. REUTERS

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Twitter suspended 360,000 accounts for 'promotion of terrorism'

Twitter GETTY IMAGES

Twitter Inc. has shut down 360,000 accounts for threatening or promoting terrorist acts since the middle of 2015, the company said in a blog post.

The microblogging platform has previously come under fire from Washington and third-party groups for not doing enough to stop accounts linked to Islamic State militants.

But, since February, it has suspended an additional 235,000 accounts, after halting 125,000 accounts since the mid-2015, most of which were related to Islamic State.

Twitter said its daily suspensions of terrorism-linked accounts have jumped 80 percent since last year and that it has reduced its response time.

Watchdog groups praised Twitter's swift response to online celebrations from Islamic extremists glorifying a July truck attack in Nice, France, that killed more than 80 people.

The company relies primarily on user reports to identify offending accounts, and said it has increased the size of the team reviewing reports.

Although it says an algorithm cannot identify extremist propaganda, it relies on spam-fighting tools to help identify repeat offenders, including those who create new accounts when they are suspended.

"Our work is not done," the blog post said, adding: "Our efforts continue to drive meaningful results, including a significant shift in this type of activity off of Twitter." REUTERS

"Our work is not done. Our efforts continue to drive meaningful results, including a significant shift in this type of activity off of Twitter."
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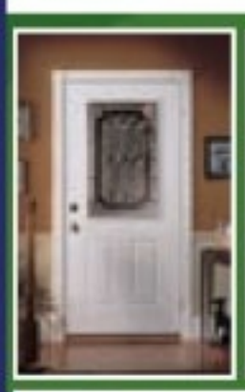

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Health official warns Zika could spread across US Gulf

One of the top U.S. public health officials on Sunday warned that the mosquito-borne Zika virus could extend its reach across the U.S. Gulf Coast after officials last week confirmed it as active in the popular tourist destination of Miami Beach.

The possibility of transmission in Gulf States such as Louisiana and Texas will likely fuel concerns that the virus, which has been shown to cause the severe birth defect known as microcephaly, could spread across the continental United States, even though officials have played down such an outcome.

Concern has mounted since confirmation that Zika has expanded into a second region of the tourist hub of Miami-Dade County in Florida. Miami's Wynwood arts neighborhood last month became the site of the first locally transmitted cases of Zika in the continental United States.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott and Florida Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Philip address the media. GETTY IMAGES

"It would not be surprising we would see additional cases perhaps in other Gulf Coast states," Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the allergy and infectious diseases unit of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), said in an interview on Sunday morning with ABC News.

Fauci noted that record flooding this month in Louisiana - which has killed at least 13 people and damaged some 60,000 homes damaged — has boosted the likelihood Zika will spread into that state.

"There's going to be a lot of problems getting rid of standing water" that could stymie the mosquito control efforts that are the best way to control Zika's spread, he said.

U.S. health officials have concluded that Zika infections in pregnant women can cause microcephaly, a birth defect marked by small head size that can lead to severe developmental problems in babies. The connection between Zika and microcephaly first came to light last fall in Brazil, which has now confirmed 1,835 cases of microcephaly that it considers to be related to Zika infections in the mothers.

On Friday, Florida Gov. Rick Scott confirmed that state health officials had identified five cases of Zika believed to be contracted in Miami Beach. REUTERS

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IT'S ABOUT TIME

TOM FOREMAN
Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously." @tomforemancnn

Tick, tick, tick. That's what I say after I've been hiking in the woods and I'm picking the bugs off, but in this case it's the sound of the presidential campaigns counting every minute left in the race. Here are my three things to watch — second by second — this week in politics:

1. NUMBER CRUNCHING TIME
The post-convention bounce in the polls was more impressive for Hillary Clinton than for Donald Trump, but it's all fading now. She still has a lead, but Pew last week put it around a mere four points. You can bet both campaigns will hawk-eye any new numbers this week and scrutinize the details. Keep watch on the state polls in the battlegrounds — places like Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina and Florida. Trump needs some good news on those fronts or closing the gap nationally

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION, GETTY IMAGES

won't make much difference.

2. TIME FOR A COMMERCIAL
Team Trump was shaken up like a martini last week, now let's see the results. With some new hard hitters at the top, the campaign is finally putting commercials up against Clinton, who has been pounding the New York billionaire with tough ads for weeks. Don't expect to see them if you are outside those battleground states I mentioned, but stay tuned: I'd bet my house pretty soon we'll see another big Trump event to fire up his followers and scoop up more of that free media coverage that has served him so well.

3. TROUBLED TIMES FOR OBAMACARE?
Insurance giant Aetna is significantly cutting back on its participation in Obamacare. Other big insurers are, too. Expert analysts say the program is not in a "death spiral" as some Republicans have predicted, but the program is in some trouble and it comes at a terrible time for Clinton. She faces a choice: Keep talking it up as a success or back away from it fast? Either way, watch for GOPers to step up their criticism tying her hard to the program.

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Justin Bieber parties with mysterious blonde

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It sounds like Justin Bieber could have used some cold water after his night out on the town.

Despite being linked to Sofia Richie — even going so far as to delete his Instagram after his fans made mean comments about her on social media — Bieber has already been spotted partying it up with another girl in London.

The 22-year-old singer, who was headlining at the V Festival in the United Kingdom, was photographed leaving a nightclub with a mysterious blonde. Meanwhile, Richie was back in Los Angeles attending a Guns N' Roses concert.

The next night, the Canadian pop star turned even more heads after a disappointing performance at V Festival. "I'm a little hungover," he told the crowd. Since his performance, fans have blasted Bieber, accusing him of lip syncing his set, according to U.K. website The Mirror.

Has his budding romance with Richie already fizzled out, or is the blonde he was spotted with just a friend? In any case, we hope the partying stops getting in the way of his performances — a Belieber can only handle so much.

Jordan Rodgers' ex accuses him of cheating

It looks like someone isn't too happy about Jordan Rodgers' newfound love with 'Bachelorette' star JoJo Fletcher.

Just weeks after the couple's engagement aired on ABC, Rodgers' ex-girlfriend, Brittany Farrar, has spoken out against the pair and accused Rodgers of cheating. This past week, she has taken to Instagram to rant about her former relationship with Rodgers.

In one post, Farrar published a lengthy explanation about her decision to out Rodgers as a "prolific liar and cheater," saying she isn't looking for fame or money. "All I want is the same thing that anyone else who's been wronged would want: the chance to share the truth," she wrote. She also posted a video to her account showing receipts for flowers that Rodgers allegedly bought for another woman while the two were dating, according to Us magazine. The video has since been deleted.

But Rodgers' past isn't bringing the couple down — on Saturday, Fletcher and Rodgers pretty much fought fire with fire, posting their own photos on Instagram to prove that they're still going strong amid the cheating rumors.

On Saturday, Fletcher posted a photo of Rodgers holding her hand while wearing her engagement ring. The best thing to hold onto in life is each other.... & tacos," the caption reads.

the word

CHLOE TSANG
letters@metro.us

@Trevornoah
Frank Ocean makes me feel like my senses have been dulled all my life and only now I'm experiencing things for the first time. #Blonde

@kristenschaaled
First thought: sad to see @Gawker is going away. Second thought: will I get more work done now?

@mindykaling
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@jtimberlake
I hope he found some peace. God bless and RIP, Lou Pearlman.

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ALBERT LEE
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Rejoice foodies, Center City District Restaurant Week is back! The long-standing tradition of dining out without digging deep returns Sept. 11-16 and includes a second helping Sept. 18-23.

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Some newcomers to our culinary fall classic include Aqimero, Butcher Bar, Craftsman Row Saloon, Yummy Sushi, Common Wealth Old City, SuGa, Hawthornes, Varga Bar and Whetstone Tavern.

Parking discounts from the Philadelphia Parking Authority will be available to diners as well as a chance to win over $100 in gift cards for those who love sharing photos of their food. Get those camera skills ready!

The corn salad at Band and Bourbon

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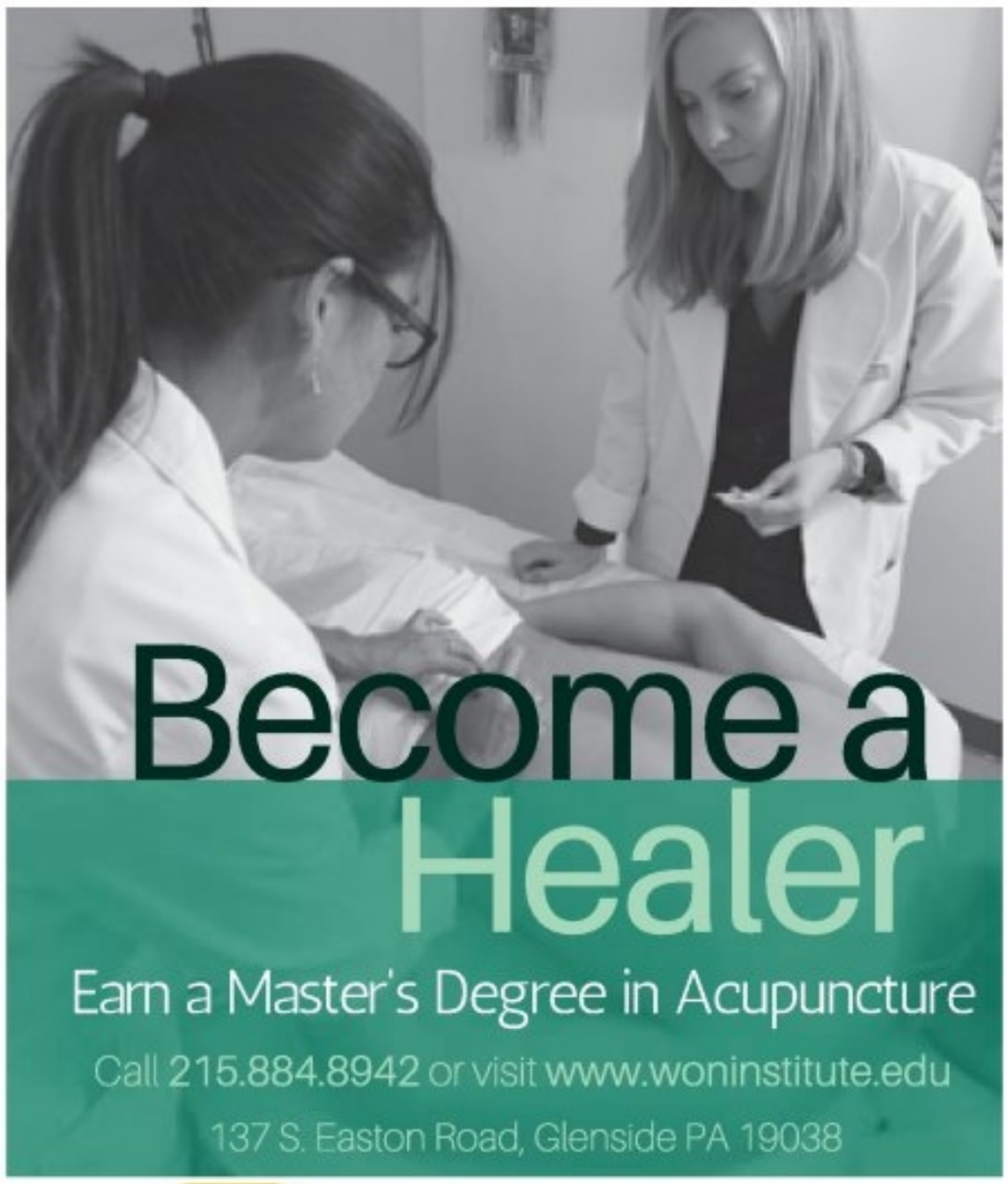
"Center City District Restaurant Week is the best opportunity to explore the region's premier assortment of fine dining at an affordable price" said Michelle Shannon, vice president of marketing for the Center City District. "And it's an excellent reason to get together with friends and make it a night out."

See the full list of restaurants at centercityphila.org

Bon appetite!



‘A breath of fresh air’

Lisa Hannigan found her inspiration once again thanks to The National’s Aaron Dessner.

ILANA KAPLAN
@lanikaps
letters@metro.us

Lisa Hannigan and The National’s Aaron Dessner started out as “musical pen pals.” RICH GILLIGAN

For Lisa Hannigan’s latest album “At Swim,” the singer-songwriter struggled to write new material while living in London — her home away from home. The 35-year-old Kilcloon, Ireland, native was on the road for some time — almost two years in support of 2011’s “Passenger” — but it was an email that Hannigan received from The National’s Aaron Dessner that sparked something inside of her once again. Hannigan ended up working with Dessner and rediscovered the collaborative spirit she had missed in Dublin.

We caught up with Hannigan about working with Dessner, her favorite songs to write and who she’d love to collaborate with in the future.

Tell me about the concept for this record.

My last record I toured for a long time — two and a half years. I had found it difficult to be on the road. When I came back to start my third record, I had this really big hill in front of me. It didn’t come as easily as I hoped it would. I moved out of the house I had lived in for a long time. I was between London and Dublin. I just felt a little unsure of myself. It took a long time because I had that feeling of being adrift or in-between. That’s the situation that the record came out of.

What was the most challenging part of writing it?

I think it was just the writing of it, actually. I kept telling myself, you write a lot of crappy songs before you write the good ones. When you’re in a difficult situation, you can be a little bit at a loss when you’re writing a song. That was most of it. I asked my friend Joe Henry if he could send some words and that worked very quickly. I got into it the swing eventually. I started working with Aaron Dessner [of The National] on “Into The Blue.” A breath of fresh air came in to my confused state and really helped me get my focus again.

How did you get connected with Aaron?

I just got an email from him out of the blue. It was amazing. We then started to become musical pen pals. He would send me beautiful music. I would make recordings and send them back.

What was your favorite song to write this time?

I don’t know. The songs were so sporadic. Every time I finished one I liked, I loved it so much. The sense of pure joy came with each of the songs. In terms of the easiest to write, it was probably “Prayer for the Dying” because it came out of such an emotional situation. The song felt very separate and easy in that moment because it was an expression about emotion. But, I love them all individually.

Who do you dream of collaborating with in the future?

I’ve always been a big fan of collaborating. I’ve always wanted to work with David Byrne. I love his show so much and how he presents his music. That would be my dream.

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Natasha Leggero talks rich people 'living like rappers' in 1902

Her sitcom, "Another Period," has its season finale on Aug. 24.

JENNIFER LOGUE
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Natasha Leggero stars in "Another Period" on Comedy Central. MATT SAYLES

If you're a fan of reality television and period pieces, you should probably check out Comedy Central's "Another Period," a sitcom that throws "KUWTK"-like drama way back — poking fun at the lives of the wealthy in Newport, Rhode Island, in the early 1900s. Its second season wraps up on Wednesday, Aug. 24 and we got to chat with one of its stars, Natasha Leggero, about those fancy Rhode Islanders back in the day and getting inspired by the "stupid things" done by the Kardashians.

So where are you calling from?
I'm driving to the gynecologist — that's not a joke. I'm not lying. [Laughs] But my day's just starting, it's like 9:30.

"Another Period" is now in its second season. Can you take us back to how you and co-star Riki Lindhome teamed up?
We were already friends and then we went to Africa with a group of comedians to make comedy videos about malaria. When we were there we really bonded and started talking about how we wanted to create our own show.

Are your characters based on real people?
Not necessarily. They're definitely fictional. It's based on this idea that these people at the turn of the century had so much money. One of them died with like $3 billion in 1902 because they weren't paying income tax. It's this golden age in American history that no one really talks about — a decadelong period where rich people were living like rappers.

Your show plays on current reality TV formats. What are your thoughts on reality TV in general?
I don't love it at all. Riki loves the Kardashians — she kinda studies them. I let her watch them and tell me the stupid things they do and sometimes we can let it inspire us when we're writing.

What are your hopes for "Another Period" this year?
I just hope that it catches on. So many people are like "I didn't even know about this show!" and then they watch it and love it and they're superfans. I want it to be a big hit.

The season finale of "Another Period" airs Aug. 24 on Comedy Central.

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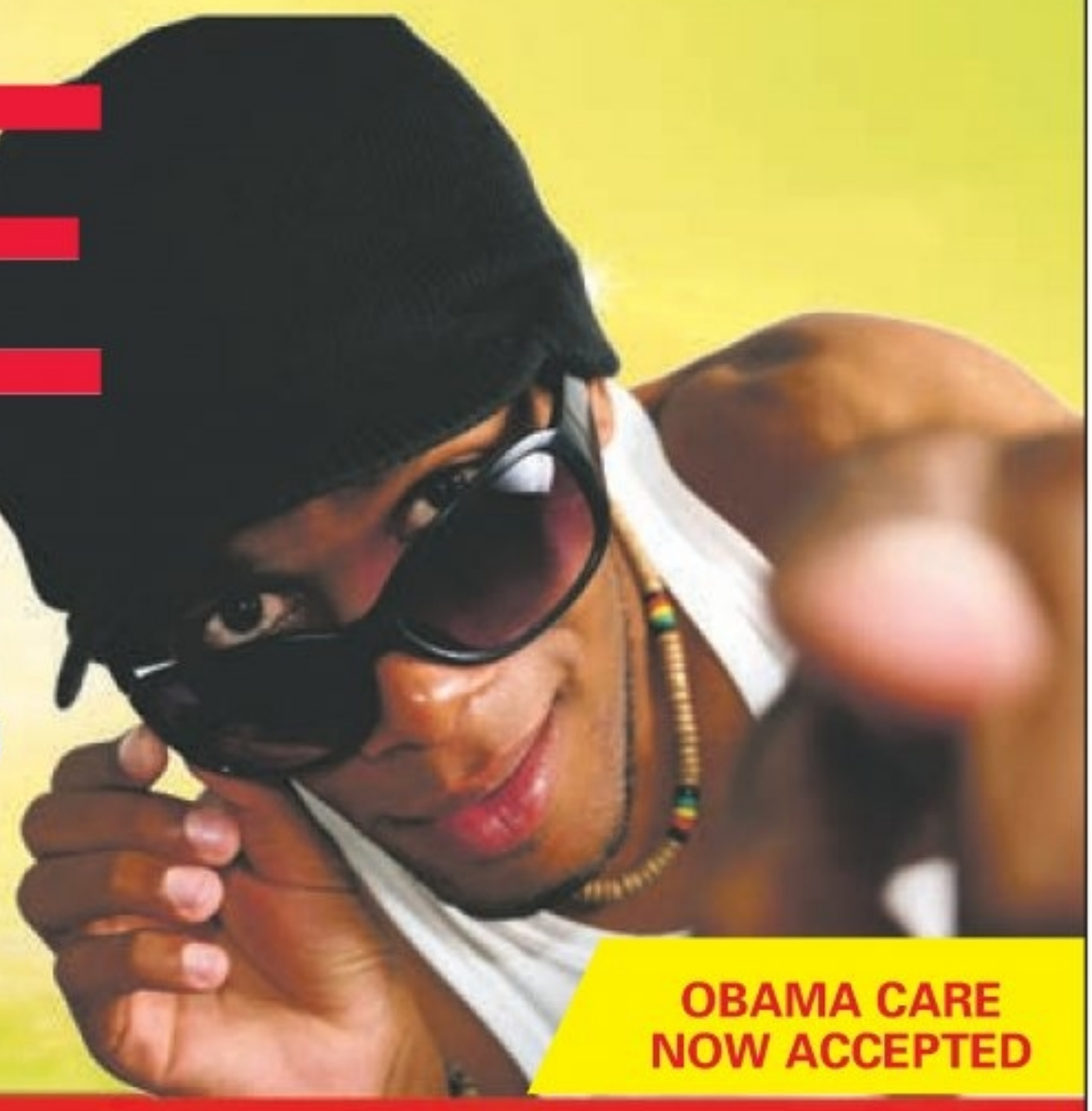

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Kadenze brings the best arts education classes, resources and professors together into one website. ISTOCK

HOW TO GET AHEAD

Kadenze brings arts education to the masses

Columbia University and Berklee College of Music are the latest schools to join forces with the innovative arts education site.

HELEN MURPHY
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

In May 2015, the first graduates of Berklee College of Music's online bachelor's degree program walked across a (real, not virtual) stage in Boston. At the time, the program was one of the first arts-education degrees that could be earned entirely online, making music education accessible to a wider audience. But what about other types of arts education?

Enter Kadenze (pronounced "kah-den-zay"), a for-profit online portal that unites the best arts education classes, resources and professors on one website. Pulling from universities around the globe, Kadenze offers MOOCs (massive open online courses) in coding, visual art, music and art history. The website partners with 26 schools including Princeton University, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Pratt Institute and, most recently, Columbia University and Berklee.

Kadenze co-founder Ajay Kapur notes the important role the two most recent additions have played in the growth of online education. In a 2013 study, Teachers College at Columbia found that roughly a third of all college students were enrolled in online courses, a sizable increase from 2010.

The high cost of a creative education

Kapur says the idea for Kadenze stemmed from two problems in arts education: the growing cost of higher education and that the influx in research about online education had been mostly geared toward online classes for math and science students. That college education is increasingly expensive isn't news to most people, but Kapur especially noticed the detrimental effect of rising costs within the arts.

Courses may be taken for credit by students working toward a degree, or simply as résumé-builders.

"We are seeing a lot of users who already have a college degree, and we're entering this age where people just really want to continue learning — some of our most popular courses are in the areas of design and creative coding … it helps them push people to where they want to get to in the next phase of their career," Kapur says.

A hands-on arts education online?

Classes on Kadenze are conducted through video-based lectures and collaboration on group discussion boards.

"The thing that's very special about Kadenze is that it's not only the teacher that you learn from; you end up learning from the global community that is submitting assignments and is really part of the discussion, and that's what makes it so fun," Kapur says.

Premium membership to Kadenze is $10 a month and allows students to receive grades, college credits and build an online portfolio, while free membership allows students to take classes in a more passive manner.

All of the courses Kadenze offers focus on harnessing individual creativity.

"Being creative, being a designer, being a creative thinker — these are all things that are necessary for innovation and leadership in the world," Kapur says.

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Internships are what you make of them. ISTOCK

So you've almost completed that coveted summer internship — kudos and congrats!

Now comes the hard part. That swanky line on your résumé means zilch if you don't take full advantage of the opportunity. Otherwise, you're wasting your time.

Sounds harsh? Welcome to the real world. As summer internships wind down, make sure you end on high note by following these must-dos (and don'ts):

Cultivate your references

"Making good contacts is one of the key takeaways from an internship, and too few interns maintain those ties," says Allison Cheston, a career advisor based in New York. Handsdown, you must leave an internship with references from your bosses — but that's just the beginning. "Make sure you connect on LinkedIn with everyone you meet during the internship. Also, ask your supervisor and colleagues to recommend you on LinkedIn, and reciprocate," she continues.

Don't leave without a proper goodbye

First, make sure you review what projects you're working on a week before leaving, and don't leave any work unfinished. "This way, if there is a project or assignment too big to tackle upon the conclusion of your internship, you will be able express your needs and discuss a way to prioritize your tasks," says Heather Huhman, a Gen Y career expert and the founder of the PR firm Come Recommended. Also, don't skip the thank you note. Even if you didn't have best experience, "it's important to thank your boss for the opportunity, as well as mention one or two of the valuable skills you learned."

Leave with an accomplishment story

After an internship, you should be able to outline a problem you were presented with, and how you resolved it. Then it's your job to turn that accomplishment into a story. "For example, let's say you were tasked with increasing the company's Twitter followers. Your accomplishment story would walk future employers through exactly how you accomplished this, and the percentage increase in Twitter followers as a result of your actions," explains Huhman.

Don't worry about brownnosing

This fear is generally unfounded. Why not be a standout superstar? "In terms of an employer [perspective], I love when my interns take initiative and are really truly interested in my company's success," says Huhman.

Be honest about your experience

If you have an exit interview at the conclusion of your internship, don't lie or try to sugarcoat your feelings. Says Huhman, "It's extremely important to be open and honest with your boss. Internships are a learning experience for both the intern and the employer, so any feedback you can provide about the program will help the employer."

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Every point matters for Union as club stretches for an elusive playoff berth

The Union play the Columbus Crew and Sporting KC in a busy week this week.

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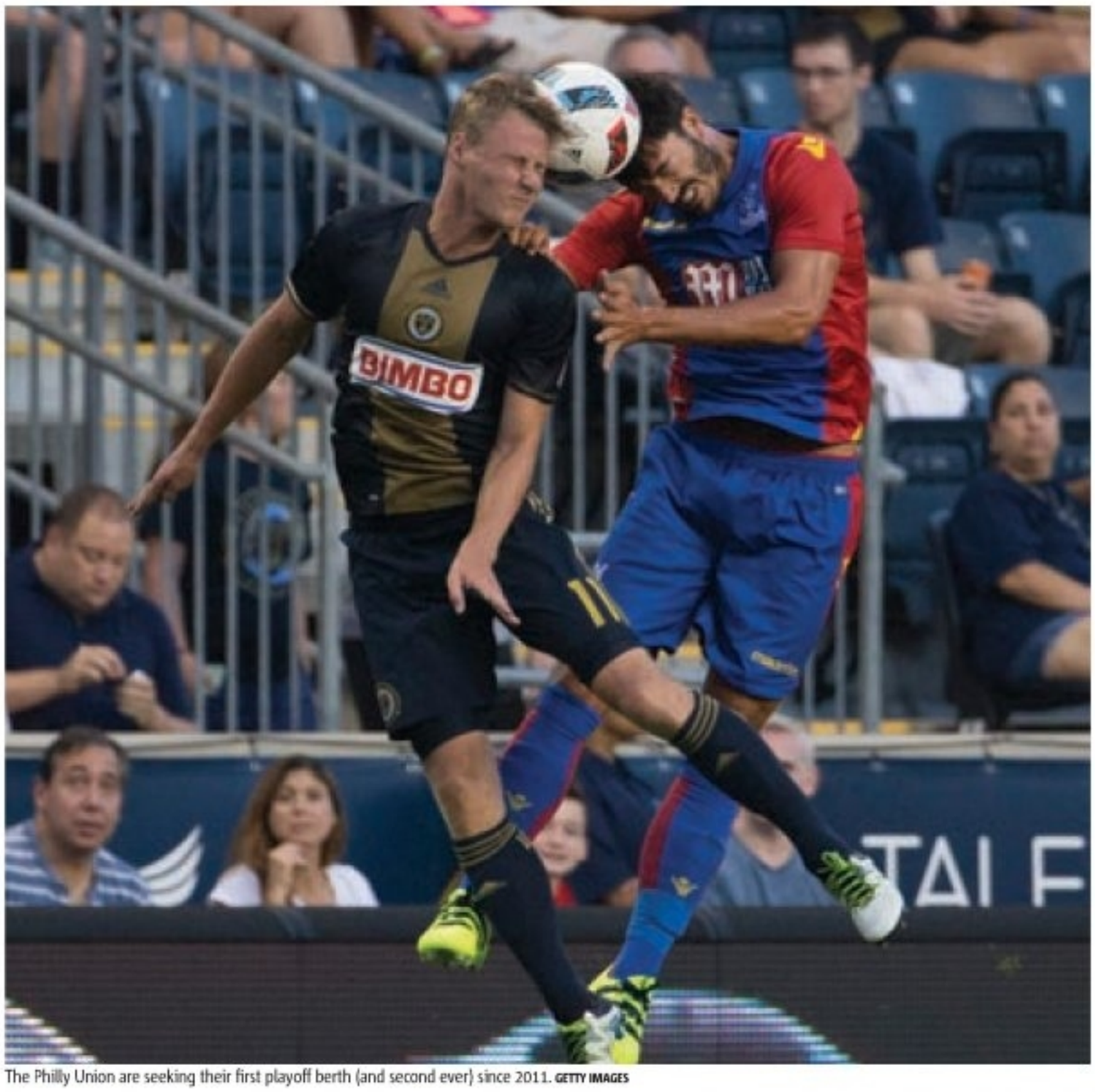

The Philly Union are seeking their first playoff berth (and second ever) since 2011. GETTY IMAGES

Despite suffering a 3-1 setback at Talen Energy Stadium on Saturday to Toronto FC (10-7-7), the Union (9-9-7) are still firmly entrenched in Eastern Conference playoff position in fourth place (34 points) with just nine matches left to play.

Everyone on the team knows what's at stake. They can't afford to miss points, especially at home where they've lost just three matches all season.

"Every point matters, you can see how tight it is in both conferences, so it will go down to the wire, but we have a group that is still playing well, and playing good soccer," Union manager Jim Curtin said. "It needs to continue in the big games against a top team like Toronto. We've got a good barometer for where we are at, and what we still need to improve on, and I think we still learned a lot tonight about different guys, so nine games left and we are going to be right in the thick of this thing until the end."

Newly acquired Union midfielder and USMNT member Alejandro Bedoya suited up for his first home game on Saturday and was greeted with large cheers from the Union faithful in attendance. He'll be under a big microscope the rest of the year, but Curtin has been very impressed with Bedoya's play through two games.

"Bedoya was excellent," Curtin said. "He was fine. He connected things, it's unfortunate that we had to adjust and change just being down a goal, a couple goals, to tweak it in a way that we didn't really want to in that you're scrambling a bit to throw bodies forward, attacking guys on the field. … You can see the relationship between Bedoya and [Union midfielder Tranquillo] Barnetta getting better and better. Again second game, I didn't want to push Alejandro 90 minutes, but the way that we had to sub and scramble, he handled it fine."

For just the second year, the top six teams in each conference make the playoffs, 12 teams in total. The first and second seeds of each conference receive a bye, while the third seed hosts the sixth seed and the fourth seed hosts the fifth seed.

For how good the Union have been at home (7-3-3) compared to away (2-6-4) this season, finishing the season as the fourth seed or higher will have a large impact on their playoff success.

"I like my team, I don't think we need to change a lot," Curtin said. "I still believe in what we're doing, the players still believe in what they are doing. So, again there are going to be highs and lows and we just need to keep pushing, I believe now we have nine games left, four at home, five on the road and it's going to be tough but it's tough for everybody right now."

The Union have a busy week ahead of them. They face the Columbus Crew (4-8-11) on the road on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. before returning home on Saturday to face Sporting KC (11-11-5) at 7 p.m. Both matches will air on the Comcast Network.

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How Phillies' Hernandez turned his season around

Patience at the plate is one of the reasons the Phillies' shortstop is still starting in South Philly.

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Cesar Hernandez is making things interesting each night at the plate, thanks to a new, revitalized approach. GETTY IMAGES

On June 12, Cesar Hernandez found himself batting .245 with just 14 RBIs to his credit.

His poor play to kick off the season only added fuel to the fire for the Phillies to bring up J.P. Crawford and slide Freddy Galvis over to second base. That never panned out, of course, much of that having to do with the resurgence of Hernandez over the past two months.

The second baseman is now batting .298 and has more than doubled his production with 30 RBI. He's also tagged three of his four home runs in that span.

His turnaround has been epitomized over his last six starts. Since Aug. 12, Hernandez is 12-for-24 (.500) with three RBIs.

"I'm just focusing a little bit," Hernandez said following his 3-for-4 game against St. Louis on Saturday. "I'm trying to see as many pitches as I can see, and that's it."

Hernandez really has elevated his game to the point where he leads the team in average, batting 18 points higher than Odubel Herrera. He's also well on his way to capping off a career-defining season. Before this year, he never batted higher than his .289 clip as a rookie in which he saw action in 34 games. He became a full-time starter in 2015, a season that saw him bat .272 with 35 RBI, 57 runs, four triples and one home run.

All of those figures were career highs, and all of them are more than likely to be eclipsed this season, if they haven't already. Hernandez already has doubled his triple production with nine this year and has laced three more homers than he did the year prior. That even made manager Pete Mackanin crack a joke about Hernandez becoming a power hitter in his postgame news conference on Saturday.

What's this mean for Hernandez's future in the organization?

Being just 26 years old, the Venezuelan product certainly has made a case for himself being a part of the core moving forward. Among the organization's top 30 rated prospects, only one of them — Scott Kingery — is a second baseman. Kingery, though, is struggling a bit since being called up to Reading, batting .253 in 95 at bats.

The aforementioned idea of shuffling Galvis to second base when Crawford's inevitable call-up happens would force Hernandez out, but Galvis' uninspiring play — a .235 average in 2016 — won't be enough to push Hernandez out. When the No. 1 prospect in all of baseball does reach the big leagues, there's almost a certainty now that his double-play mate will be Hernandez.

That's definitely a pleasant surprise for someone who found himself trending downward in a hurry two months ago.

Red-hot Ryan Howard not likely to be moved

Ryan Howard is Ryan Howard again. But it's too late.

According to MLB.com's Todd Zolecki, the squad doesn't expect to use it's one-time All-Star's recent hot play as trade bait heading toward August's waiver trade deadline. And it won't renew his monstrous contract.

Prior to Sunday's game against the Cardinals, Howard was hitting .394 in 33 at-bats this month, with five home runs and 13 RBI. He had an ugly start to the year that saw him benched for prospect Tommy Joseph, and left many wondering why the Phillies didn't cut him outright.

"I know especially early in the year, it was a trying year for him," Phillies GM Matt Klentak told MLB.com. "To see the way that he has handled all of that, and continued to grind, continued to work hard and to earn the playing time and now to be performing as well as he is for the last month or so, it's a really good story. If this is in fact Ryan's last year in Philadelphia, he's helping to write a nice end to it."

Klentak's word choice seems to imply that he's not only going to finish the year in Philly, but that the team will decide to exercise the $10 million buy out clause in his contract (to save them from paying the full $25 million option for 2017).

"Until somebody is not in our uniform, I always expect they're going to be here the next day," Klentak said.

Howard was never the same All-Star slugger after tearing his Achilles in the team's 2009 World Series loss, but fans should enjoy their last chance to see the living legend, 36, while still wearing No. 6 in red pinstripes. EVAN MACY

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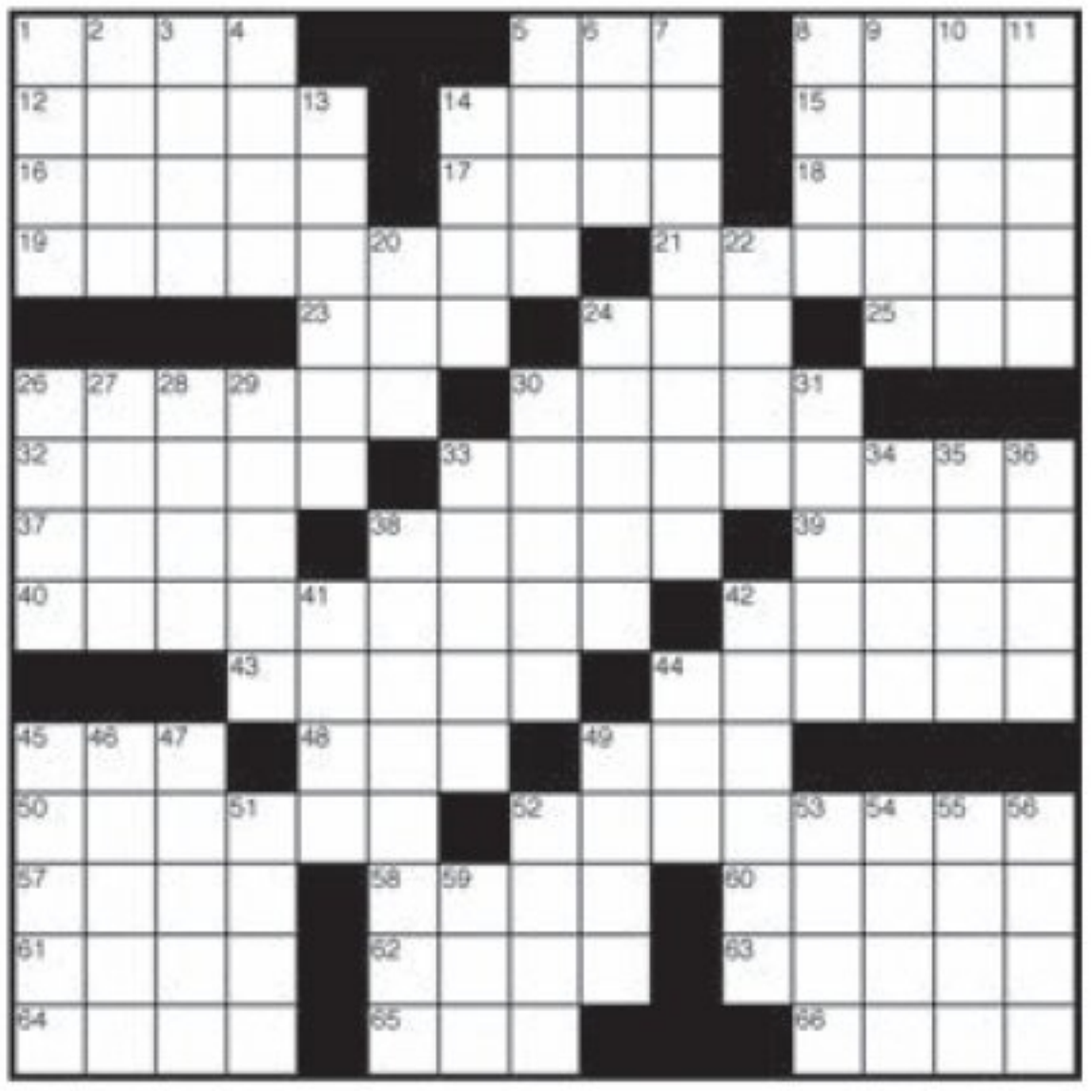

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Aries Don't leave anything to chance. Making plans that you can adjust along the way will lead to your success. Stay alert and be ready to take advantage of an opportunity.

Taurus You will come out on top if you are prepared to give your all. Making plans with children or family or socializing with peers or friends will boost your confidence.

Gemini Take command, but don't antagonize someone who is stubborn or likely to fight back. Keep your life simple and focus on personal improvements, not on trying to change others.

Cancer Unexpected changes must not be allowed to throw you off course. If you adjust to whatever transpires and carry on, you will reach your goal and surpass your expectations.

Leo Your attitude will make a difference as to how others treat you. Optimism is a good way to attract opportunities. If you believe in yourself, so will everyone else.

Virgo Cut to the chase and take care of legal, contractual and financial matters quickly. If you let your emotions run the show, you will lose your equilibrium.

Libra Secretive actions will lead to trouble. Honesty will bring about the results you want in the quickest manner. Refuse to let anyone bully or put pressure on you.

Scorpio Put your energy into an employment search, improvements and striving for financial gain. Size up your situation and make reasonable changes that will lead to concrete results.

Sagittarius Nothing will be as it appears. Don't rely on hearsay; get to the root of the matter and decide what's best for you. Now is not the time to be a follower.

Capricorn Emotional game-playing is best ignored. You are best off focusing on growth and doing what will bring the highest rewards rather than trying to accommodate someone else.

Aquarius Embrace change, work hard and strive to turn a plan into a reality. Live life according to your rules, and don't give in to others' emotional demands. Be true to yourself.

Pisces You need to put greater emphasis on love, romance and relationships. You can bring about favorable changes if you work with someone you care about. EUGENIA LAST

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OVERWEIGHT AND HAVE HIGH TRIGLYCERIDES?

PRA Health Sciences is seeking moderately overweight adults with high triglycerides for an investigational study. Men must be 18-70 years old. Women must be 40-70 years old and postmenopausal. Volunteers must not be taking prescription cholesterol medications.

Volunteers must be available for three stays of eight total nights, plus a total of five follow-up visits.

Qualified participants may recieve compensation up to $4,100.

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If so, this person could qualify for a clinical research study being conducted by PRA Health Sciences in Marlton. To qualify for this study, this male or female should be between ages 18 and 60. He or she should have had at least three months of antipsychotic therapy within the past five years. Females should not be pregnant or about to become pregnant.

Those who qualify for this study may be compensated for their time and travel.

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PRA Health Sciences in Marlton is now seeking individuals with mild Alzheimer's disease for a research study. To qualify for this study, individuals should be male or female between ages 55 and 85. Other than mild Alzheimer's, they should be in general good health. Females should be postmenopausal for at least one year or surgically sterile.

Those who qualify for this study may be compensated for time and travel.

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